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Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "IMH offers seminars on literature of exclusion" (1998). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 15216.
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The University of
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NEWS RELEASE

March 6, 1998

Contact: Dixie McLaughlin, 329-5662

IMH OFFERS SEMINARS ON LITERATURE OF EXCLUSION

MISSOULA--

Missoula's Institute of Medicine and Humanities will begin its five-part spring seminar series on the literature of exclusion Thursday, March 12. The institute is a joint venture of The University of Montana and St. Patrick Hospital.

The seminars will meet from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays March 12 and 26, April 9 and 23, and May 7. The meeting room is Classroom 1 on the second floor of the Broadway Building at St. Patrick Hospital.

The series will explore selected examples of what literature, history and language can contribute to a deeper compassion for those who feel estranged by illness, disability, war or other alienating events, IMH humanities Director Jan Willms said.

"Our whole mission is to try to understand persons who are sick, to increase the awareness of inhumanity toward persons who are ill or otherwise out of sorts with their society," she said.

The fee for the series is \$15, payable at the first session. Here is the schedule:

Thursday, March 12 -- "Their Stories: Alienation in Literature," led by Willms, who will approach the literature of alienation from a caregiver's perspective. Willms is an adjunct professor of English at UM and a doctor of medicine.

Thursday, March 26 -- "The Politics of Prejudice," led by Darla Bruner, education

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curator at the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula. Bruner will look at Fort Missoula's history as an internment camp as explored in several literary texts written during the past 50 years. A native of Montana, Bruner holds a bachelor's degree in English from UM.

Thursday, April 9 -- "Snow Falling on Cedars," led by Casey Charles, an assistant professor of English at UM. Charles will look at how the novel "Snow Falling on Cedars" by David Guterson represents the murder trial and what it says about justice in the United States. Charles is a member of the California State Bar Association. He specializes in literature and law, Renaissance studies, and lesbian and gay literature.

Thursday, April 23 -- "The Caprices of Memory: How We Reconstruct Pain," led by Willms. The discussion, based on Harry Mulisch's novel "The Assault," will focus on the way the mind rearranges memory to deal with profound, intolerable pain.

Thursday, May 7 -- "Disability and the Language of Care," led by Ann Cook, a program director at UM's Rural Institute on Disabilities. Focusing on Franz Kafka's "Metamorphosis," the session will explore the fear, uncertainty and exclusion that can accompany disability. Cook has developed projects involving medical ethics, aging and special education.

Participants will be responsible for getting access to the literature used in the seminars. For help in locating the materials, call Dixie McLaughlin at 329-5662.

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